

23 June 1986

TALKING POINTS FOR THE DDI

South Africa: Unrest Update and ProspectsDomestic Situation

Pretoria claims that the number of unrest incidents has declined dramatically since the state of emergency was imposed, but recently published figures indicate that violence was at record levels prior to the emergency.

- Government press releases state that 55 people have died in unrest since the state of emergency was imposed on 12 June.
- The respected South African Institute of Race Relations reports that 213 people died in unrest last month--the highest monthly figure in nearly two years of unrest.
- Some 754 died in the first five months of this year, as compared with 879 in all of 1985, according to the Institute. An average of 6.9 people died each day in May; last year's average was 2.4 per day.
- _____ security forces have detained between 1,500 and 3,000 people of all races under emergency regulations.

55 dead since
Emergency.
(12 June)

213
dead May
=

_____ the scope of protests in black townships 25X1
It appears, however, that the massive security presence in the townships has limited the scale of demonstrations and violence in the past week.

- _____ continued incidents of stone-throwing, firebombing, mobs of blacks attacking blacks and clashing with security forces. 25X1
- The ANC probably conducted the three bombings in the Durban area over the weekend. One bomb hit a pipeline at an oil refinery, causing a fire and an oil spill; another at a chemical plant caused minor damage.
- _____ increased deployments by security services in the center of Soweto and at exits to the Johannesburg area and other white areas. _____ increased deployments in Mamelodi and Atteridgeville townships near Pretoria.

ANC
Durban
NIF on ANC
- Communist
- Prospects 25X1
Secur. 25X1
deployments

- The US defense attache reports heightened security presence in the Durban area, as well as checkpoints--where only blacks are stopped--on major roads.

Labor unrest appears to have been one focal point of antigovernment activity, and there are signs that the security crackdown is intensifying labor unrest and disrupting business activity. We believe Pretoria is likely to face a deepening dilemma in coming weeks as it tries to balance its security needs with the need to stabilize the labor situation.

- The national leaders of the predominantly black 660,000-member Congress of South African Trade Unions apparently are still free, according to US Embassy reporting, but officials of its member unions have been arrested. Leaders of the black consciousness Council of Unions of South Africa are in detention, and the leader of the black mineworkers' union is in hiding, according to Embassy reporting.

labor
prob.

leaders detained

- South African business leaders have requested an urgent meeting with the Minister of Law and Order to discuss the labor situation. The Embassy reports that continuing strikes and detentions have paralyzed management-labor relations and contract negotiations.
- Sporadic strikes have been reported in Transvaal Province, where members of a retail store workers' union are staging wildcat strikes against six stores and a dairy to protest the detention of union leaders. Press reports indicate that the strike is spreading, now including the record industry in the Transvaal.
- Some 1,000 workers in Cape Province were dismissed last week after striking for higher wages.

- dismissals

Pretoria is continuing its efforts to crackdown on opposition groups in an effort to restore order in the townships.

- President Botha last week sent two security bills--which were rejected by both nonwhite houses in parliament--to a special special council empowered to break parliamentary deadlocks. The ruling National Party holds a majority on the council, and the bills were pushed through.
- When Botha signs the new legislation, security forces will be given broad powers to declare and act in "unrest areas," and the government's power to detain people will be extended from 14 to 180 days.

New
security
measures

- "unrest" areas
- 180 > 14 days

- Last Thursday, Pretoria imposed a dusk to dawn curfew in townships in 13 magisterial districts in the Port Elizabeth area of eastern Cape Province, where resistance to the state of emergency has been most intense.

25X1

25X1

- A police commissioner in western Cape Province imposed an effective ban on almost 120 opposition groups in six magisterial districts, including the multiracial United Democratic Front, the Congress of South African Trade Unions, the Release Mandela Committee, and the End Conscription Campaign. Officials of these organizations cannot be quoted in the press, and their pamphlets and posters are banned.

Outlook

In our judgment, Pretoria is convinced that the state of emergency prevented major unrest during last week's anniversary of the Soweto riots.

- Security concerns remain the government's paramount concern, and the government will not be dissuaded by growing international condemnation and calls for sanctions from doing whatever it believes necessary to "restore order."
- With new security regulations in place, however, the government may begin to ease some restrictions.

With leaders under arrest or in hiding and a continuing security presence, blacks are unlikely to try to mount largescale organized challenges to the government in the near term. The potential for spontaneous outbreaks of violence, however, remains high.

- More ANC attacks are likely in coming days as the group marks the anniversary of its Freedom Charter on Thursday.

ANC
anniversary
(NTE)